



Department of Energy
Grand Junction Projects Office
Post Office Box 2567
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-2567
May 16, 1990

Mr. Paul Mushovic, Remedial Project Manager
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VIII
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2405

Mr. Steven J. Peterson, Environmental Engineer
Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste
288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 16690
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-0690

SUBJECT: News Release Concurrence

Dear Mr. Mushovic and Mr. Peterson:

Enclosed is a news release for your concurrence; I know this is short notice, but would appreciate any comments by this Thursday, May 17, 1990. Purpose of the news release is to provide general information on DOE's current activities through the San Juan Record, a weekly newspaper, to the community of Monticello, Utah.

The news release covers this year's construction plans for Vicinity Properties, remind people of the block process and necessity for total remediation, recognize local drought conditions, explain what DOE/GJPO was doing at the millsite during the winter, and remind readers of the Administrative Record and key contact information.

We hope to issue the release Friday, May 18, 1990. If we cannot complete the concurrence process by May 17, we plan to issue the news release after May 28, 1990.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at FTS 326-6009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dee J. Williamson".

Dee J. Williamson
Monticello Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: J Lyle - DOE/ID, MS-1113
W Murphie - EM-423/GTN

19019

For Immediate Release: May 18, 1990

MILL TAILINGS CLEANUP IN PROGRESS

(Grand Junction, Colorado) - Cleanup of uranium mill tailings from Monticello Vicinity Properties is again in progress. The U.S. Department of Energy expects to clean up 25 properties during the 1990 construction season. Nine properties have been cleaned up so far this year.

In order to streamline the identification and removal of mill tailings from Monticello properties, DOE is using a "block" concept for the radiologic assessment surveys and for the cleanup work. All of the properties in an entire city block are being surveyed at the same time to ensure that those with contamination in excess of EPA standards are identified in a timely and cost-effective manner. Since much of the mill tailings contamination has been carried from the millsite by the wind, UNC Geotech, the DOE's Remedial Action Contractor, has begun surveying the blocks closest to the millsite first. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, another DOE contractor, will be surveying properties from the outer perimeter of the potential windblown area in toward the millsite. The Superfund program requires that all contaminated properties must be cleaned up to acceptable standards before delisting from the National Priorities List can occur. An information update providing current status of the project and outlining the "block" process was sent to more than 600 Monticello property owners in February 1990.

Recognizing the drought conditions and water restrictions that exist in Monticello, the Department of Energy is acquiring water for dust control during construction from private water sources rather than using municipal water. Trucks traveling from the construction sites to the temporary disposal site at the Monticello Millsite are covered to prevent inadvertent dispersion.

DRAFT

Over the past winter months, some additional core drilling was conducted in the millsite area to further characterize potential permanent repository sites. The additional data was provided to the DOE, Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Utah for use in reaching a decision on the final disposition of Monticello mill tailings. The Record of Decision is expected in the fall of this year.

Monticello residents may review documents relating to the Monticello cleanup at the San Juan County Public Library. Questions concerning activities at either the Vicinity Properties or the Millsite may be sent to Mr. Peter Mygatt, Office of External Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Projects Office. P.O. Box 2567, Grand Junction, Colorado, 81502. Please include a telephone number. Mr. Mygatt may also be reached at (303) 248-6015 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

- 3 0 -

News contacts:

Mr. Peter Mygatt, U.S. Department of Energy - 303/ 248-6015

Mr. Paul Mushovik, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - 303/294-7519

Mr. Steve Peterson, Utah Department of Health - 801/538-6170